

December 11, 2015  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 206-208  
Concord, NH

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Mary Ann Cooney, Michael Adamkowski, Michael Skibbie, Nicole Rodler, Evelyn Clark Smith, Martha Kane and Judge Carroll

**Others in Attendance:** Lorraine Bartlett

**I. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Commissioner Mary Ann Cooney at approximately 11:00am by welcoming members of the Commission and guests. She also requested a note taker for this particular meeting and Commissioner Steady agreed to this request.

**II. Approval of Minutes (November 13, 2015)-** Due to the November “draft” minutes not being sent out the Commission prior to the December meeting the Commission was unable to approve them this meeting. The meeting minutes will be sent out prior to January meeting and approved at the January meeting.

**III. Review of the Commissions Taskforce duties-** Commissioner Kane stated she felt the commission justifiably spent a considerable amount of time reviewing SYSC, but we are missing information on probation and how it interacts with Juvenile Diversion.

## **IV. Discussions-**

There was some discussion on some unknowns of SYSC: How SYSC prepares for discharge/release? What are the legal processes before or after students are released? How long does it take to get a youth petitioned? How long does it take for services to be in place if there is a violation? There was discussion if SYSC should remain as one facility or if there should be smaller facilities throughout the state.

Commissioner Skibbie felt supports need to be put in place before youth enter the system. Discussion around this was focused on looking at rate setting for services. Rate setting is determined by legislatures. The Commission felt it was important to look at RSAs that help or hinder this. For example, if a program is developed to address services before youth enter the system they can't adjust their rate setting. The Commission felt it was important to look at rate setting and flexibility around it.

Commissioner Skibbie brought up that there needs to be a good understanding of the array of youth services from the beginning to end of services. Discussion focused

on having a solid understanding on some of the smaller services. For example, what is available at JJS? Commission discussed that services tend to focus on Tier 3 and broader array of services need to be considered.

Commissioner Rodler reminded members of the Commission that she had sent out reports on Juvenile Diversion. These reports contain information on standards regarding how to assess placement to determine if they are providing “appropriate” services/best practices. The Commission discussed that they need to look at assessments of best practices to determine the cost benefits and gaps. The Commission felt they would like to spend sometime studying various assessment tools. The Commission discussed the tools that are currently used to assess youth to be committed are not effective as many youth would never be able to meet the cut off point. Several Commissioners felt that it isn’t the tool but it is the use of the tool. The tool was developed 30 years ago by several judges and they were instructed to use it when there is a commitment. There is a juvenile justice policy and practice workgroup and will be looking at the efficacy of the tool.

The Commission also felt it would be important to get more information on JJS services and the effectiveness of probation and parole. Lorraine Bartlett will bring JJS probation and parole information to next meeting.

The Commission discussed CHINS and how it interfaces with school. What’s available for school services when some of the problems occur in the community or home? As CHINS has a lack of community service options. Commission felt it would be important to study the effectiveness of CHINS. Commissioners also questioned how does JJS interface with the school? Do courts get the appropriate information from schools? Do schools always get appropriate voice in dispositional hearing (too little of a voice or too much of a voice)? Commissioner Carroll spoke of the limitations of CHINS and how frustrating it is from the bench.

The Commission discussed if SYSC is being used as a jail for older youth (17-18 year olds). Has merging them to SYSC been a favorable impact or are there unintended consequences? Commissioner Cooney will look into this.

## **V. Decisions-**

A report writing team will be created to start drafting a report. The team will be Commissioner Adamkowski, Commissioner Rodler, Commissioner Steady, and Commissioner Clark-Smith

Commissioner Carroll made a motion for the process of how recommendations will make it into the report. The motion made was *“there is a discussion on the recommendation, a vote to move the recommendation forward, and then*

*recommendation goes into the report".* Commissioner Adamkowski seconded the motion. The Commissioners unanimously passed the motion.

**VI. Recommendations:**

1. The State (DHHS) should review the current costs and develop an operating budget reflecting only costs associated to services provided to youth SYSC to determine actual cost
2. The State (DHHS) should review currently used tools to commitment, and, as necessary, identify additional evidence-based tools/assessments to better identify the most appropriate continuum of services for youth.
3. The State (DHHS) should develop a subcommittee to study the array of youth services. These services should be monitored for effective outcomes using assessment measures.
4. To conduct a study of the rate of recidivism at SYSC and analysis for reason of high rate, as well as how to decrease recidivism.
5. To require look at States ability to fully fund Juvenile Diversion.
6. To revise Medicaid rates every two years for providers to align with services.
7. The State (DHHS) to study the cost and service effectiveness of SYSC and to see if 1 or smaller facilities would be better suited to provide a greater service array that is more cost effective.

**VII. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1pm.